



MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager *Jorge*

DATE: January 11, 2006

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005.**

A meeting of the Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in the City Manager's Large Conference Room. Commissioners in attendance: Matti Herrera Bower, Saul Gross and Richard L. Steinberg. City staff in attendance: Fred Beckmann, Director – Public Works; Robert Halfhill, Assistant Director – Public Works; Jimmy McMillion, Special Projects Coordinator – Neighborhood Services Dept.; Jordanna Rubin, Environmental Manager; Demar Woodson, Right of Way Manager.; Alexis Rodriguez, Engineering Assistant; Patricia Bocio, Public Works Dept.; Yvonne Sepulveda, Aide to Commissioner Bower; and Randi MacBride, Neighborhood Services Dept. Others in attendance are listed in the attached sign-in sheet.

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF NEWSPAPER RACKS.

This item is returning to the committee six months after the City Commission adopted the ordinance regulating newsracks to review and discuss problems resulting from the revisions. The following items were identified by the publishers and the City as issues that needed to be revisited:

- a. Should the City be allowed to immediately remove non-permitted newsracks owned by non-registered publishers from the right-of-way?

The committee moved to approve the staff recommendation to amend the ordinance to allow for the immediate removal of non-permitted newsracks placed on the right-of-way by non-registered publishers.

- b. Should the annual fee for renewing newsrack permits be lowered?

The committee moved to lower the annual fee from \$35.00 to \$25.00 with the understanding that the idea is not to generate revenue but to pay for the cost of administration and enforcement and will be reviewed after one year.

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- c. Should the ordinance be revised to allow graphic publication identification decals on the back of newsracks?

The committee moved to approve the staff recommendation to leave the specifications for decals on the newsracks as contained in the ordinance unchanged as the original intent was to present a clean, uncluttered appearance on the newracks.

2. REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM TO ALLOW DOGS ON THE BEACHWALK.

The Committee moved to notify the neighborhood of the results of the pilot program (see attached) and advise them that the program will be cancelled in 45 days unless there is substantial improvement in people picking up after their dogs and keeping their dogs on their leashes. After the neighborhood has been notified and the 45 day extension has expired, Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director, will bring the item back to the Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee with an update.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ONE-WAY FEASIBILITY STUDY OF HARDING AVENUE FROM 69TH STREET TO 72ND STREET.

The committee moved to leave Harding Avenue as is and incorporate the data acquired in this study in a more complex traffic analysis with a much larger picture.

JMG\HMF\VPG\rfm



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NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 29, 2005

SIGN-IN SHEET

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NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 29, 2005

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Mathi Bower	CNRC		
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Fred Beckmann	PWD	x 6012	



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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tel: 305-673-7080, Fax: 305-673-7028

To: Chairman and Members of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee

From: Fred H. Beckmann
Public Works Director

Date: October 20, 2005

Subject: REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM TO ALLOW DOGS ON THE BEACHWALK

The City of Miami Beach is developing series of bicycle/pedestrian/greenway projects to be known as the Atlantic Greenway Network (AGN). The AGN is made up of two main trail systems; the Beach Corridors, which extend in a general northbound/southbound direction, between the erosion control line and the dune system; and the Neighborhood Trails, which extend in a general east-west as well as north-south directions through the south, middle, and north beach neighborhoods. Individual projects will be constructed to create a continuous trail network allowing for alternative transportation and community enhancement. The Beachwalk, a fifteen foot wide, multi-use recreational corridor, is the first segment completed of the Atlantic Greenway Network.

City staff has developed rules and guidelines for the use of the Beachwalk, which address whether pets should be allowed on the Beachwalk. Pursuant to Miami - Dade County Ordinance Chapter 5, sec.5-4 & Miami Beach Ordinance sec.10-10, no pets are allowed on the Beach. The Beachwalk, which is located east of the Erosion Control Line, is subject to those State and local ordinances that govern the beach environment. Staff has reviewed these proposed guidelines with the Hotel Association, Bikeways Committee, Pedestrian sub-committee, and the Boucher Brothers Concession. City staff met with the South Beach Hotel Association and there was not a consensus of whether to allow dogs on the Beachwalk. The allowance of pets on the Beachwalk is still to be determined.

At the request of the City Commission, staff has implemented a three month pilot program to allow pets on the Beachwalk. As of June 2005, waste dispensers were installed at every streetend to help minimize impacts on the dune eco-system and paver walkway. The pilot program concluded as of September 2005.

The following are some initial results of the pilot program:

- Animal waste and dogs off the leash has been documented by photographs over the three month period. Waste was found in landscaping, within the dune, and along the beachwalk path.

- Most waste dispensers remained empty as of July 2005. Of the twelve dispensers only one dispenser had a few bags remaining.
- A survey was conducted regarding the pilot program. 150 people were surveyed over one weekend in September 2005. Surveys were taken from 11th street to 35th street along the Beachwalk and the Boardwalk.
 1. The majority of those surveyed (66%) commented that animal waste is a consistent problem; Most surveyed felt that the local population was not respectful of picking up dog waste.
 2. Of those surveyed, 12% admitted to letting their dogs off a leash, mainly at night.
 3. The majority of those surveyed (56%) do not want to allow dogs on beach.

Due to the numerous health, environmental, and public concerns, City staff does not recommend changing County and City ordinances to allow pets on the Beachwalk.

c: Bob Halfhill, Assistant Public Works Director
 Fernando Vazquez, City Engineer
 Jordanna Rubin, Environmental Resources Manager

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